

# A DECREE

OF  
Starre-Chamber,  
CONCERNING

PRINTING,

*Made the eleventh day of July  
last past. 1637.*



Imprinted at London by Robert Barker,  
Printer to the Kings most Excellent  
Maiestie: And by the Assignes  
of Iohn Bill. 1637.

*Lacks A1, which has signature  
only*

*C. 1967*

*574 R.3  
8*



Printed at London by Robert Barker,  
Printer to the Kings most Excellent  
Majestie: And by the Assignes  
of John Bate, 1687.





In Camera Stellata coram Con-  
cilio ibidem, vndecimo die  
*Iulij, Anno decimo tertio*  
CAROLI Regis.

**H**is day Sir I O H N  
BANKES Knight,  
His Maiesties At-  
tourney Generall, pro-  
duced in Court a Decree drawn  
and penned by the aduice of the  
Right Honourable the Lord Kee-  
per of the great Seale of England,  
the most Reuerend Father in God

A 3

the



Printed at London by Robert Barker,  
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Majestie: And by the Assignes  
of John Bill: 1637.





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A 3

the

## *A Decree*

*the Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury his Grace, the Right Honorable and Right Reuerend Father in God the Lord Bishop of London Lord high Treasurer of England, the Lord chiefe Iustices, and the Lord chiefe Baron, touching the regulating of Printers and Founders of letters, whereof the Court hauing consideration, the said Decree was directed and ordered to be here Recorded, and to the end the same may be publique, and that euery one whom it may concerne may take notice thereof, The Court hath now also ordered, That the said Decree shall speedily be Printed, and that the same*



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*same be sent to His Maiesties  
Printer for that purpose. Where-  
as the three and twentieth day of  
Iune in the eight and twentieth yere  
of the reigne of the late Queene  
Elizabeth, and before, diuers De-  
crees and Ordinances haue beene  
made for the better gouernment  
and regulating of Printers and  
Printing, which Orders and De-  
crees haue beene found by experi-  
ence to be defectiue in some parti-  
culars; And diuers abuses haue  
sithence arisen, and beene practised  
by the craft and malice of wicked  
and euill disposed persons, to the  
preiudice of the publike; And di-  
uers libellous, seditious, and muti-*

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now bookes haue been vnduly printed, and other bookes and papers without licence, to the disturbance of the peace of the Church and State: For prevention whereof in time to come, It is now Ordered and Decreed, That the said former Decrees and Ordinances shall stand in force with these Additions, Explanations, and Alterations following, viz.

**Imprimis,**





In Camera Stellata coram Con-  
cilio ibidem, vndecimo die Iulii,  
*Anno decimo tertio CAROLI*  
Regis.

**I***Mprimis*, That no  
person or persons  
whatsoever shall  
presume to print,  
or cause to bee  
printed, either in the parts be-  
yond the Seas, or in this Realme,  
or other his Maiesties Domini-  
ons, any seditious, scismaticall,  
or offensive Bookes or Pam-  
phlets,

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phlets, to the scandall of Religion, or the Church, or the Government, or Governours of the Church or State, or Commonwealth, or of any Corporation, or particular person or persons whatsoever, nor shall import any such Booke or Bookes, nor sell or dispose of them, or any of them, nor cause any such to be bound, stitched, or sowed, vpon paine that he or they so offending, shall loose all such Bookes & Pamphlets, and also haue, and suffer such correction, and seuer punishment, either by Fine, imprisonment, or other corporall punishment, or otherwise, as  
by



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by this Court, or by His Ma-  
iesties Commissioners for causes  
Ecclesiasticall in the high Com-  
mission Court, respectiue, as  
the severall causes shall require,  
shall be thought fit to be infli-  
cted upon him, or them, for such  
their offence and contempt,

II. *Item*, That no person  
or persons whatsoever, shall at  
any time print or cause to be im-  
printed, any Booke or Pamphlet  
whatsoever, vnlesse the same  
Booke or Pamphlet, and also all  
and euery the Titles, Epistles,  
Prefaces, Proems, Preambles, In-  
troductions, Tables, Dedicati-  
ons,

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ons, and other matters and things whatsoever thereunto annexed, or therewith imprinted, shall be first lawfully licensed and authorized onely by such person and persons as are hereafter expressed, and by no other, and shall be also first entered into the Registers Booke of the Company of Stationers; vpon paine that euery Printer offending therein, shall be for ever hereafter disabled to use or exercise the Art or Mysterie of Printing, and receiue such further punishment, as by this Court or the high Commission Court respectiuely, as the severall causes



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ses shall require, shall be thought fitting.

III. *Item*, That all Bookes concerning the common Lawes of this Realme shall be printed by the especial allowance of the Lords chiefe Iustices, and the Lord chiefe Baron for the time being, or one or more of them, or by their appointment; And that all Books of History, belonging to this State, and present times, or any other Booke of State affaires, shall be licenced by the principall Secretaries of State, or one of them, or by their appointment;

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ment; And that all Bookes concerning Heraldry, Titles of Honour and Armes, or otherwise concerning the Office of Earle Marshall, shall be licenced by the Earle Marshall, or by his appointment; And further, that all other Books, whether of Divinitie, Phisicke, Philosophie, Poetry, or whatsoeuer, shall be allowed by the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, or Bishop of *London* for the time being, or by their appointment, or the Chancellours, or Vice-Chancellors of either of the Vniuersities of this Realme for the time being.

Alwayes prouided, that the  
Chan-



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Chancellour or Vice-Chancellour, of either of the Vniuersities, shall Licence onely such Booke or Bookes that are to be Printed within the limits of the Vniuersities respectiuelly, but not in *London*, or elsewhere, not meddling either with Bookes of the common Law, or matters of State.

**IV. Item,** That euery person and persons, which by any Decree of this Court are, or shall be appointed or authorized to Licence Bookes, or giue Warrant for imprinting thereof, as is aforesaid, shall haue two seuerall  
written

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written Copies of the same Booke or Bookes with the Titles, Epistles, Prefaces, Proems, Preambles, Introductions, Tables, Dedications, and other things whatsoever thereunto annexed. One of which said Copies shall be kept in the publike Registries of the said Lord Arch-Bishop, and Bishop of *London* respectiueley, or in the Office of the Chancellour, or Vice-Chancellour of either of the Vniuersities, or with the Earle Marshall, or principall Secretaries of State, or with the Lords chiefe Iustices, or chiefe Baron, of all such Bookes as  
shall



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shall be licensed by them respectively, to the end that he or they may be secure, that the Copy so licensed by him or them shall not bee altered without his or their priuie, and the other shall remain with him whose Copy it is, and vpon both the said Copies, he or they that shall allow the said Booke, shall testifie vnder his or their hand or hands, that there is nothing in that Booke or Books contained, that is contrary to Christian Faith, and the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of *England*, nor against the State or Government, nor contrary to good life,

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or

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or good manners, or otherwise, as the nature and subject of the work shall require, which license or approbation shall be imprinted in the beginning of the same Booke, with the name, or names of him or them that shall authorize or license the same, for a testimonie of the allowance thereof.

**V. Item,** That every Merchant of bookes, and person and persons whatsoever, which doth, or hereafter shall buy, import, or bring any booke or bookes into this Realme, from any parts beyond the Seas, shall before such  
time



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time as the same book or books,  
or any of them be deliuered  
forth, or out of his, or their hand  
or hands, or exposed to sale,  
giue, and present a true Cata-  
logue in writing of all and euery  
such booke and bookes vnto the  
Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbu-*  
*ry*, or Lord Bishop of *London* for  
the time being, vpon paine to  
haue and suffer such punish-  
ment for offending herein, as by  
this Court, or by the said high  
Commission Court respectiue-  
ly, as the seuerall causes shall re-  
quire, shall be thought fitting.

**V. Item,** That no Mer-  
chant,

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chant, or other person or persons  
whatsoever, which shall import,  
or bring any book or books into  
the kingdome, from any parts  
beyond the Seas, shall presume  
to open any Dry-fats, Bales,  
Packs, Maunds, or other Fardals  
of books, or wherein books are;  
nor shall any Searcher, Way-  
ter, or other Officer belonging  
to the Custome-house, vpon  
pain of loosing his or their place  
or places, suffer the same to  
passe, or to be deliuered out of  
their hands or custody, before  
such time as the Lord Arch-Bi-  
shop of *Canterbury*, or Lord Bi-  
shop of *London*, or one of them  
for



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for the time being, haue appointed one of their Chaplains, or some other learned man, with the Master and Wardens of the Company of Stationers, or one of them; and such others as they shall call to their assistance, to be present at the opening thereof, and to view the same: And if there shall happen to be found any seditious, schismaticall or offensive booke or bookes, they shall forthwith be brought vnto the said Lord Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*, Lord Bishop of *London* for the time being, or one of them, or to the High Commission Office, to the end that as well

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the offender or offenders may be punished by the Court of Star Chamber, or the high Commission Court respectively, as the severall causes shall require, according to his or their demerit; as also that such further course and order may be taken concerning the same booke or bookes, as shall bee thought fitting.

**VII. Item,** That no person or persons shall within this Kingdome, or elsewhere imprint, or cause to be imprinted, nor shall import or bring in, or cause to be imported or brought into



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into this Kingdome, from, or out  
of any other His Majesties Do-  
minions, nor from other, or any  
parts beyond the Seas, any Co-  
py, booke or bookes, or part of any  
booke or bookes, printed be-  
yond the seas, or elswhere, which  
the said Company of Stationers,  
or any other person or persons  
haue, or shall by any Letters Pa-  
tents, Order, or Entrance in their  
Register booke, or otherwise,  
haue the right, priuiledge, au-  
thoritie, or allowance sely to  
print, nor shall bind, stich, or  
put to sale, any such booke or  
bookes, vpon paine of losse and  
forfeiture of all the said bookes,  
and

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and of such Fine, or other punishment, for euery booke or part of a booke so imprinted or imported, bound, stitched, or put to sale, to be leuyed of the party so offending, as by the power of this Court, or the high Commission Court respectiue, as the severall causes shall require, shall be thought fit.

**VIII.** *Item,* Euery person and persons that shall hereafter Print, or cause to be Printed, any Bookes, Ballads, Charts, Portraiture, or any other thing or things whatsoeuer, shall thereunto or thereon Print and set his and their owne name or names,

as



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as also the name or names of the  
Author or Authors, Maker or  
Makers of the same, and by, or  
for whom any such booke, or o-  
ther thing is, or shall be printed,  
vpon pain of forfeiture of all such  
Books, Ballads, Chartes, Portrai-  
tures, and other thing or things,  
printed contrary to this Article;  
And the presses, Letters and o-  
ther instruments for Printing,  
wherewith such Books, ballads,  
Chartes, Portraitsures, and other  
thing or things shall be printed,  
to be defaced and made vnser-  
uiceable, and the party and par-  
ties so offending, to be fined, im-  
prisoned, and haue such other

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corporall punishment, or otherwise, as by this Honourable Court, or the said high Commission respectiuey, as the seuerall causes shall require, shall be thought fit.

**I X.** *Item,* That no person or persons whatsoeuer, shall hereafter print, or cause to be printed, or shall forge, put, or counterfeit, in, or vpon any booke or books, the name, title, marke or vinnet of the Company or Society of Stationers, or of any particular person or persons, which hath or shall haue lawfull priuiledge, authoritie,



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ritie, or allowance to print the same, without the consent of the said Company, or party or parties that are or shall be so priuiledged, authorized, or allowed to print the same booke or books, thing or things, first had and obtained, vpon paine that euery person or persons so offending, shall not onely loose all such books and other things, but shall also haue, and suffer such punishment, by imprisonment of his body, fine, or otherwise, as by this Honourable Court, or high Commission Court respectiuely, as the seuerall causes shall require, it shall

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be to him or them limited or adiudged.

X. *Item*, that no Haberdasher of small wares, Ironmonger, Chandler, Shop-keeper, or any other person or persons whatsoever, not hauing beene seuen yeeres apprentice to the trade of a Book-seller, Printer, or Book-binder, shall within the citie or suburbs of London, or in any other Corporation, Market-towne, or elsewhere, receiue, take or buy, to barter, sell againe, change or do away any Bibles, Testaments, Psalm-books, Primers, Abcees, Almanackes, or  
other



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other booke or books whatsoe-  
uer, vpon pain of forfeiture of all  
such books so receiued, bought  
or taken as aforesaid, and such  
other punishment of the parties  
so offending, as by this Court,  
or the said high Commission  
Court respectiuely, as the seve-  
rall causes shall require, shall be  
thought meet.

XI. *Item*, for that Printing  
is, and for many yeers hath been  
an Art and manufacture of this  
kingdome, for the better incou-  
raging of Printers in their ho-  
nest, and iust endeauours in  
their profession, and preuention

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of diuers libels, pamphlets, and  
seditious books printed beyond  
the seas in English, and thence  
transported hither;

It is further Ordered and  
Decreed, that no Merchant,  
Bookseller, or other person or  
persons whatsoever, shall im-  
print, or cause to be imprinted,  
in the parts beyond the seas, or  
elsewhere, nor shall import or  
bring, nor willingly assise or  
consent to the importation or  
bringing from beyond the seas  
into this Realme, any English  
bookes, or part of bookes, or  
bookes whatsoever, which are  
or



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or shall be, or the greater, or more part whereof is or shall be English; or of the English tongue, whether the same book or bookes haue been here formerly printed, or not, vpon pain of the forfeiture of all such English bookes so imprinted or imported, and such further censure and punishment, as by this Court, or the said high Commission Court respectiuely, as the seuerall causes shall require, shall be thought meet.

XII. *Item,* That no stranger or forreigner whatsoeuer, be suffered to bring in, or vent here, any booke or bookes printed

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beyond the seas, in any language whatsoever, either by themselves, or their secret Factors, except such onely as bee free Stationers of *London*, and such as haue beene brought vp in that profession, and haue their whole meanes of subsistance, and liuelihood depending thereupon, vpon paine of confiscation of all such Books so imported, and such further penalties, as by this Court, or the high Commission Court respectiuelly, as the severall causes shall require, shall be thought fit to be imposed.

**XIII.** *Item.* That no person  
or



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or persons within the Citie of  
*London*, or the liberties thereof,  
or elsewhere, shall erect or cause  
to be erected any Presse or Print-  
ing-house, nor shall demise, or  
let, or suffer to be held or vsed, a-  
ny house, vault, seller, or other  
roome whatsoeuer, to, or by any  
person or persons, for a Printing-  
house, or place to print in, vnlesse  
he or they which shall so demise  
or let the same, or suffer the same  
to be so vsed, shall first giue no-  
tice to the said Master and VVar-  
dens of the Company of Statio-  
ners for the time being, of such  
demise, or suffering to worke or  
print there, vpon paine of impri-  
E sonment,

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sonment, and such other punishment, as by this Court, or the said high Commission Court respectuely, as the severall Causes shall require, shall bee thought fit.

**XIV.** *Item,* That no Ioyner, or Carpenter, or other person, shall make any printing-Presse, no Smith shall forge any Ironworke for a printing-Presse, and no Founder shall cast any Letters for any person or persons whatsoever, neither shall any person or persons bring, or cause to be brought in from any parts beyond the Seas, any Letters  
Founded



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Founded or Cast, nor buy any  
such Letters for Printing; Un-  
lesse he or they respectiue-ly shall  
first acquaint the said Master  
and VVardens, or some of them,  
for whom the same Presse, Iron-  
works, or Letters, are to be made,  
forged, or cast, vpon paine of  
such fine and punishment, as this  
Court, or the high Commis-  
sion Court respectiue-ly, as the se-  
uerall causes shall require, shall  
thinke fit.

XV. *Item*, The Court doth  
declare, that as formerly, so now,  
there shall be but Twentie Ma-  
ster Printers allowed to haue the

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vse of one Presse or more, as is  
after specified, and doth hereby  
nominate, allow, and admit these  
persons whose names hereafter  
follow, to the number of Twen-  
tie, to haue the vse of a Presse, or  
Presses and Printing-house, for  
the time being, viz. *Felix King-  
stone*, *Adam Islip*, *Thomas  
Purfoot*, *Miles Flesher*, *Thomas  
Harper*, *John Beale*, *John Legat*,  
*Robert Young*, *John Haviland*,  
*George Miller*, *Richard Badger*,  
*Thomas Cotes*, *Bernard Alsop*,  
*Richard Bishop*, *Edward Griffin*,  
*Thomas Purslow*, *Richard Hodg-  
kinsonne*, *John Dawson*, *John  
Raworth*, *Marmaduke Parsons*.  
And



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And further , the Court doth order and decree , That it shall be lawfull for the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury* , or the Lord Bishop of *London*, for the time being , taking to him or them six other high Commis-sioners, to supply the place or places of those, which are now already Printers by this Court , as they shall fall void by death, or Cen-sure , or otherwise : Prouided that they exceed not the number of Twentie , besides His Maiesties Printers , and the Printers allowed for the Vni-uerſities.

E 3 XVI. *Item,*

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XVI. *Item*, That euery person or persons, now allowed or admitted to haue the vse of a Presse, and Printing-house, shall within Ten dayes after the date hereof, become bound with sureties to His Maiestie in the high Commission Court, in the sum of three hundred pounds, not to print, or suffer to be printed in his house or Presse, any booke, or bookes whatsoeuer, but such as shall from time to time be lawfully licensed, and that the like Bond shall be entred into by all, and euery person and persons, that hereafter shall be admitted, or allowed to print, before he or they



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they be suffered to haue the vse  
of a Presse.

**XVII.** *Item,* That no allowed  
Printer shall keepe aboue two  
Presses, vnlesse he hath been Ma-  
ster or vpper VVarden of his  
Company, who are thereby al-  
lowed to keep three Presses and  
no more, vnder paine of being  
disabled for euer after to keepe  
or vse any Presse at all, vnlesse  
for some great and speciall occa-  
sion for the publique, he or they  
haue for a time leaue of the Lord  
Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, or  
Lord Bishop of *London* for the  
time being, to haue or vse one, or

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more aboute the foresaid number, as their Lordships, or either of them shall thinke fit. And whereas there are some Master Printers that haue at this present one, or more Presses allowed them by this Decree, the Court doth further order and declare, That the Master and VVar- dens of the Company of Stationers, doe forthwith certifie the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, or the Lord Bishop of *London*, what number of Presses each Master Printer hath, that their Lordships or either of them, taking vnto them six other high Commissioners, may take  
such



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such present order for the suppressing of the supernumerarie Presses, as to their Lordships, or to either of them shall seem best.

**XVIII.** *Item,* That no person or persons, do hereafter reprint, or cause to bee reprinted, any booke or bookes whatsoever (though formerly printed with licence) without being reviewed, and a new Licence obtained for the reprinting thereof. Alwayes provided, that the Stationer or Printer bee put to no other charge hereby, but the bringing and leauing of two printed copies of the book to be  
F printed,

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printed, as is before expressed of  
written Copies, with all such  
additions as the Author hath  
made.

**XIX.** *Item,* The Court doth  
declare, as formerly, so now,  
That no Apprentices be taken  
into any printing-house, other-  
wise then according to this pro-  
portion following, (*viz.*) every  
Master-Printer that is, or hath  
beene Master or vpper VVar-  
den of his Company, may haue  
three Apprentices at one time  
and no more, and every Master-  
printer that is of the Litterie of  
his Company, may haue two  
Appren-



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Apprentices at one time and no  
more, and euery Masterprin-  
ter of the Yeomanry of the  
Company may haue one Ap-  
prentice at one time and no  
more, neither by Copartner-  
ship, binding at the Scriveners,  
nor any other way whatsoeuer;  
neither shall it be lawfull for any  
Master-Printer when any Ap-  
prentice or Apprentices, shall  
run or be put away, to take an-  
other Apprentice, or other Ap-  
prentices in his or their place or  
places, vnlesse the name or names  
of him or them so gone away,  
be rased out of the Hall booke,  
and neuer admitted again, ypon

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paine of being for euer disabled  
of the vse of a Presse or printing-  
house, and of such further pu-  
nishment, as by this Court, or the  
high Commission Court re-  
spectiue, as the seuerall causes  
shall require, shall be thought fit  
to be imposed.

**XX.** *Item,* The Court doth like-  
wise declare, that because a great  
part of the secret printing in cor-  
ners hath been caused for want  
of orderly imployment for Jour-  
neymen printers, Therefore  
the Court doth hereby require  
the Master and Wardens of the  
Company of Stationers, to take  
especiall care that all Journey-  
men



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men-printers, who are free of the Company of Stationers, shall be set to worke, and imployed within their owne Company of Stationers; for which purpose the Court doth also order and declare, that if any Iourneyman-Printer, and free of the Company of Stationers, who is of honest, and good behauour, and able in his trade, do want imployment, he shall repaire to the Master and Wardens of the Companie of Stationers, and they or one of them, taking with him or them one or two of the Master Printers, shall go along with the said Iourney-

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man-Printer, and shall offer his service in the first place to the Master-Printer vnder whom he serued his Apprentiship, if he be liuing, and do continue an allowed Printer, or otherwise to any other Master Printer, whom the Master and VVar- dens of the said Company shall thinke fit. And euery Master Printer shall bee bound to im- ploy one Iourneyman, being so offered to him, and more, if need shall so require, and it shall be so adiudged to come to his share, according to the proportion of his Apprentices and imploy- ments, by the Master and  
VVar-



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VVardens of the Company of Stationers, although he the said Master Printer with his Apprentice or Apprentices be able without the helpe of the said Journeyman or Journeymen to discharge his owne worke, vpon paine of such punishment, as by this Court, or the high Commission Court respectiuely, as the seuerall causes shall require, shall be thought fit.

XXI. *Item,* The Court doth declare, That if the Master and VVardens of the Companie of Stationers, or any of them, shall refuse or neglect to go along

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with any honest and sufficient Journey-man Printer, so desiring their assistance, to finde him imployment, vpon complaint and prooffe made thereof, he, or they so offending, shall suffer imprisonment, and such other punishment, as by this court, or the high Commission Court respectively, as the seuerall causes shall require, shall bee thought fit to bee imposed. But in case any Master Printer hath more imployment then he is able to discharge with helpe of his Apprentice or Apprentices, it shall be lawfull for him to require the helpe of any Journey-man, or Journey-men



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men-Printers, who are not im-  
ployed, and if the said Journey-  
man, or Journeymen-Printers  
so required, shall refuse employ-  
ment, or neglect it when hee or  
they haue vndertaken it, he, or  
they shall suffer imprisonment,  
and vndergo such punishment;  
as this Court shall thinke fit.

XXII. *Item*, The Court  
doth hereby declare, that it doth  
not hereby restraine the Printers  
of either of the Vniuersities  
from taking what number of  
Apprentices for their seruice in  
printing there, they themselues  
shall thinke fit. Prouided al-  
ways,

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wayes, that the said Printers in the Vniuersities shall imploy all their owne Iourney-men within themselves, and not suffer any of their said Iourney-men to go abroad for employment to the Printers of *London* (vnlesse vpon occasion some Printers of *London* desire to imploy some extraordinary VVorkman or VVorkmen amongst them, without preiudice to their owne Iourneymen, who are Freemen) vpon such penaltie as the Chancellor of either of the Vniuersities for the time being, shall thinke fit to inflict vpon the delinquents herein.

XXIII. *Item,*



XXIII. *Item*, That no Master-printer shall imploy either to worke at the Case, or the Presse, or otherwise about his printing; any other person or persons; then such onely as are Free-men, or Apprentices to the Trade or mystery of Printing, vnder paine of being disabled for euer after to keep or vse any Presse or Printing-house, and such further punishment as by this court, or the high Commission Court respectiue, as the seuerall causes shall require, shall bee thought fit to bee imposed.

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XXIV. *Item*,

*A Decree*

XXIV. *Item*, The Court doth hereby declare their firme resolution, that if any person or persons, that is not allowed Printer, shall hereafter presume to set vp any Presse for printing, or shall worke at any such Presse, or Set, or Compose any Letters to bee wrought by any such Presse; hee, or they so offending, shall from time to time, by the Order of this Court, bee set in the Pillorie, and VVhipt through the Citie of London, and suffer such other punishment, as this Court shall Order or thinke fit to inflict vpon



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upon them, upon Complaint or  
prooffe of fuch offence or offen-  
ces, or fhall be otherwife punifh-  
ed, as the Court of high Com-  
miffion fhall thinke fit., and is  
agreeable to their Commiffion.

XXV. *Item*, That for the  
better difcouery of printing in  
Corners without licence; The  
Master and VVardens of the  
Company of Stationers for the  
time being, or any two licensed  
Master-Printers, which fhall be  
appointed by the Lord Arch-  
Bifhop of *Canterbury*, or Lord  
B. of *London* for the time being,  
fhall haue power and authority,

*A Decree*

to take vnto themselues such assistance as they shall think needfull, and to search what houses and shops (and at what time they shall think fit) especially Printing-houses, and to view what is in printing, and to call for the licence to see whether it be licensed or no, and if not, to seize vpon so much as is printed, together with the seuerall offenders, and to bring them before the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, or the Lord Bishop of *London* for the time being, that they or either of them may take such further order therein as shall appertaine to Iustice.

XXVI.



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XXVI. *Item*, The Court doth declare, that it shall be lawfull also for the said Searchers, if vpon search they find any book or bookes, or part of booke or books which they suspect to containe matter in it or them, contrary to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of *England*, or against the State and Gouvernement, vpon such suspition to seize vpon such book or books, or part of booke or books, and to bring it, or them, to the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, or the Lord Bishop of *London* for the time being, who shall take

*A Decree*

such further course therein, as  
to their Lordships, or either of  
them shall seeme fit.

XXVII. *Item*, The Court  
doth order and declare, that  
there shall be foure Founders of  
letters for printing allowed, and  
no more, and doth hereby nomi-  
nate, allow, and admit these per-  
sons, whose names hereafter fol-  
low, to the number of foure, to  
be letter Founders for the time  
being (*viz.*) *Iohn Grismand,*  
*Thomas Wright, Arthur Ni-*  
*chols, Alexander Eiseild.* And  
further, the Court doth Order  
and Decree, that it shall be law-  
full



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full for the Lord Arch-bishop  
of *Canterbury*, or the Lord Bi-  
shop of *London* for the time be-  
ing, taking unto him or them, six  
other high Commissioners, to  
supply the place or places of  
these who are now allowed  
Founders of letters by this  
Court, as they shall fall void by  
death, censure, or otherwise.

Prouided, that they exceede  
not the number of foure, set  
downe by this Court. And if  
any person or persons, not being  
an allowed Founder, shall not-  
withstanding take vpon him, or  
them, to Found, or cast letters  
for printing, vpon complaint  
and prooffe made of such offence,

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or

## *A Decree*

or offences, he, or they so offending, shal suffer such punishment, as this Court, or the high Commission court respectiue, as the feuerall causes shall require, shall think fit to inflict vpon them.

**XXVIII.** *Item,* That no Master-Founder whatsoeuer shall keepe aboue two Apprentices at one time, neither by Copartnership, binding at the Scriueners, nor any other way whatsoeuer, neither shall it be lawfull for any Master-Founder, when any Apprentice, or Apprentices shall run, or be put away, to take another Apprentice, or other Apprentices in his, or their place or places, vnlesse the name, or names of him,



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him, or them so gone away, be rased out of the Hall-booke of the Company, whereof the Master-Founder is free, and neuer admitted again, vpon pain of such punishment, as by this Court, or the high Commission respectiue-ly, as the seuerall Causes shall require, shall be thought fit to bee imposed.

**XXIX.** *Item,* That all Iourney-men-Founders be imployed by the Master-Founders of the said trade, and that idle Iourney-men be compelled to worke after the same manner, and vpon the same penalties, as in case of the Iourneymen-Printers is before specified.

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XXX. *Item*, That no Master-Founder of letters, shall imploy any other person or persons in any worke belonging to the casting or founding of letters, then such onely as are freemen or apprentices to the trade of founding letters, save onely in the pulling off the knots of mettle hanging at the ends of the letters when they are first cast, in which work it shall be lawfull for euery Master-Founder, to imploy one boy only that is not, nor hath beene bound to the trade of Founding letters, but not otherwise, upon pain of being for euer disabled to vse or exercise that art, and such further punishment, as by this Court



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Court, or the high Commission Court respectiue, as the seuerall causes shall require, be thought fit to be imposed.

XXXI. *Item*, That euery person or persons whatsoeuer, which shall at any time or times hereafter, by his, or their confession, or otherwise by proof be conuicted of any of the offences, by this, or any other Decree of this Court made, shal before such time as he or they shall be discharged, and ouer and aboue their fine & punishment, as aforesaid, be bound with good sureties, neuer after to transgresse, or offend in that or the like kinde, for which he, or they shalbe so conuicted and punished, as aforesaid; And that all and

*A Decree*

euery the forfeitures aforesaid (excepting all seditious schismaticall Bookes, or Pamphlets, which this Court doth hereby Order to bee presently burnt) And except such Bookes, as the forfeitures are already granted by Letters Patents, shall be diuided and disposed of, as the high Commission Court shall find fit. Alwaies prouiding that one moitie be to the King.

XXXII. *Item*, That no Merchant, Master, or Owner of any Ship or Vessell, or any other person or persons whatsoever shall hereafter presume to land, or put on shore any Booke or Bookes, or the part of any Booke or Books, to be imported from beyond the seas,

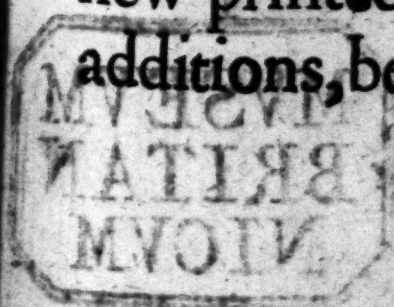
in



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in any Port, Hauen, Creek,  
or other place whatsoeuer within  
the Realme of *England*, but only  
in the Port of the City of *London*,  
to the end the said Bookes may  
there be viewed, as aforesaid:  
And the seuerall Offices of His  
Maiesties Ports are hereby re-  
quired to take notice thereof.

**XXXIII.** *Item*, That whereas  
there is an agreement betwixt Sir  
*Thomas Bodley* Knight, Founder  
of the Vniuersity Library at Ox-  
*ford*, and the Master, VVar-  
dens, and Assistants of the Com-  
pany of Stationers (*viz.*) That  
one Booke of euery sort that is  
new printed, or reprinted with  
additions, be sent to the Vniuer-  
sitie



itie of *Oxford* for the vse of the  
publique Librarie there; The  
Court doth hereby Order, and  
declare, That euery Printer shall  
referue one Book new printed, or  
reprinted by him, with additions,  
and shall before any publique  
venting of the said book, bring it  
to the Common Hall of the  
Companie of Stationers, and de-  
liuer it to the Officer thereof to  
be sent to the Librarie at *Oxford*  
accordingly, vpon paine of im-  
prisonment, and such further  
Order and Direction therein, as  
to this Court, or the high Com-  
mission Court respectiuelly, as  
the seuerall causes shall require,  
shall be thought fit.

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